

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2006**

Members Present: Morris, Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Timberman

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Dean Reid (Veterans Home Administrator) and Brenda Dunning (Veterans Home Director of Nursing)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for all their efforts put forth for the Veterans Home.

MOTION BY THOMPSON TO ACCEPT MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY LANK, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt made reference to handouts that listed cemetery interments by month.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Commissioner Carroll thanked Commissioner Lank for offering his vocals at the Memorial Day Ceremony.

FINANCE AND LOGISTICS

No report.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Commissioner Thompson reported that the Chairman and the Legislative Affairs Committee met with Senator Bunting twice and it looks as if the meetings were quite successful. Chairman Morris requested that when this General Assembly closes out, that they get a list of legislation that did not pass in order to review it. Commissioner Carroll reported he had read an article in the Delaware State News about proposed legislation for a patriotic license plate in which proceeds would go to the Veterans Home. Discussion followed.

PERSONNEL

No report.

MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

HOME DEDICATION

Commissioner Harden reported that 1,500 pins have been ordered. The pins will be attached to the programs and if they run out of pins they will take names and get them a pin. Mr. Davila has sent recommendations over to the Secretary of State's office to put in the time capsule. Three tents will be set up; two tents for seating and one for refreshments. Everything seems to be in order and on time.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Commissioner Endres reported that he did an interview with WDOV pertaining to the stolen veterans' records. He had a photo put in the Delaware State News of the Flag Day Ceremony at the Cemetery in Sussex County. He also invited WDOV to that event, as well as the American Legion Post 2. Post 2 presented Mr. Davila with a check for \$2,700 for the Veterans Home fund.

BY-LAWS

No report.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Newstadt (JWV) – Reported that they had their annual luncheon with the installation of their officers. He also offered a check for \$50 from one of their members for the Veterans Home fund. He reported that there have been a lot of questions about the list of quality of life items. His members wanted to know what the status is so they can donate toward them.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – Received two individual calls congratulating the Oversight Committee on their accomplishment.

Wasson (DELVETS) – Reported that they had their Memorial Day celebration at Post 1 and it went off very well, they honored Iraq soldiers and their families.

Harden (WAVES) – The WAVES will meet this coming Saturday and then will not meet for awhile. As a Commissioner, she was asked to go to the Ingleside Retirement Apartments on Flag Day and she talked about the Home and the Cemeteries.

Kitson (VFW) – They had their State Convention June 9-10, 2006, and installed new officers. The National Convention will start on June 26th in Reno, NV. The Red, White and Blue Gala is scheduled for October 7, 2006, and everyone will be receiving their letters by the end of the month.

Ennis (KWVA) – Reported that they had their Executive Council Meeting on June 18, 2006, at Post 2, which is a quarterly meeting. Gene Rose from Newark is the new Commander. They had a lot of good comments on the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Bridge and wanted to commend Commissioner Carroll for his efforts on a job well done.

Thompson (MCL) – The Marine Corps League (State) and Military Order of the Devil Dogs (State) will hold their Convention on June 24, 2006, in Dover.

Lardizzone (DAV) – The DAV Convention will be held on June 17, 2006. He attended the New Jersey DAV Convention on June 15, 2006.

Carroll (MOPH) – Reported that their Convention will be on June 24, 2006, at the Dover AFB Museum. They have become involved by meeting every plane that comes into the Washington area that has any of the wounded from overseas and offering them assistance.

Magner (AMVETS) – The Department Convention was held on May 20, 2006. The National Convention will take place in Reno, NV, August 2006.

Endres (40 & 8) – They hosted the Flag Day Ceremony at the Sussex County Veterans Cemetery, with the assistance of the Korean War Veterans.

Morris (American Legion) – Representatives from the Wilmington American Legion, Gold Star Mothers, and the National Guard Chapel, did a report on WHYY on how the War on Terrorism affects a community, mainly because of the deaths that came out of Seaford. The Gold Star Mothers talked about how it affects an individual. They will have their State Convention in July 2006.

Commissioner Thompson wanted to thank Commissioner Webb and the VVA for taking care of the Seaford Marines at the funeral; they did a very good job of blocking the protesters.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Chairman Morris commented that if it were not for the VVA and their first donation, we might still be talking about the Home and when it was going to get started. Chairman Morris continued to outline and discuss the aspects of how the Home came to be and how it needs to move forward. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lank wanted to note that there should be a lot of credit given to both Chairman Morris and former Chairman Thompson for getting them as far as they did.

Mr. Reid extended his congratulations to the Commission and reported that the Home was on time as far as construction. Mr. Reid reviewed and discussed information in a packet that that was provided to the Commissioners that contained future drafts and proposals for the Home. It was agreed that the package would be reviewed; changes made, and should be completed by September 2006. There was more discussion about how things would evolve with the Veterans Home, as well as issues and problems that will need to be worked out. Mr. Reid explained that the Veterans Home will have its own website and there will be a link from the Delaware State home page.

Commissioner Carroll reported that the Veterans Home Fund total was \$171,872.49, as of June 19, 2006. There has been a new program set up by the solicitor, through the Steering Committee, called "Friends of the Veterans Home" and has \$300,000 donated by the Longwood Foundation. There are two other foundations that indicate that they are coming on board and have made donations of \$100,000 and \$30,000. Commissioner Carroll reported that there is a monthly status report put out by NASON Construction and he reviewed that report with the Commission. The U.S. Post Office will recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and reissue the Purple Heart stamp on Monday, June 26, 2006, 1:00 PM, at the Wilmington VA auditorium. On Wednesday, June 14, 2006, the VA dedicated the nursing home garden area.

Mr. Davila discussed some details of the new 501C3 account that has been set up for the Veterans Home. He announced that the legislation for funding of the WWII monument will be presented on June 21, 2006, 9:00 AM. Discussion followed. Commissioner Carroll asked for an update on the DVD and literature being produced for the Veterans Home. Mr. Davila provided an update.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Newstadt questioned the December Commission Meeting schedule and Mr. Davila explained that was being worked on and there was discussion.

MOTION BY NEWSTADT FOR THE COMMISSION TO SEND A LETTER TO CORBIT GOFF TO THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS RELATING TO VETERANS ISSUES, SECONDED BY LANK, MOTION CARRIED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: JULY 25, 2006 (11:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED